

Library
Barnstaple Rural District

Annual Report

— ON —

The Health of the Area

VITAL STATISTICS

SANITARY WORKS

HOUSING, ETC.

for the Year 1953

BARNSTAPLE RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

ON

THE HEALTH OF THE AREA

VITAL STATISTICS

SANITARY WORKS

HOUSING, ETC.

for the Year 1953

By

Dr. F. J. H. MARTIN

(M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond., D.P.H. Oxon.)

Medical Officer of Health

And

ARTHUR J. DENNIS

Chief Sanitary Inspector



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29252477>

The Health Department,

The Red House,

Castle Street,

Barnstaple,

April, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Barnstaple Rural District Council.

Mrs. Trebble and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you the Report upon the
Public Health of the Barnstaple Rural District
for the year 1953.

Your obedient Servant,

FRANK MARTIN,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Part Time Officer :

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. F. J. H. Martin, M.R.C.S. Eng.,
L.R.C.P. Lond., D.P.H. Oxon.

Whole Time Officers :

<i>Chief Sanitary Inspector</i>	}	A. J. Dennis, C.R.S.I.,
<i>Building Surveyor and Engineer</i>	}	A.I.A.S.

Additional Sanitary Inspector : F. A. Lethbridge, A.R.S.I.,
M.S.I.A.

Second Sanitary Inspector . R. H. West, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Assistant Architect – – – C. D. Squire, A.I.A.S.

Draughtsman – – – – – N. Liddicoat

Rodent Officer W. E. Lamb

Clerk of Works J. G. Pugsley

<i>Clerks</i>	}	Mrs. D. McGlynn
		Miss C. Vyner
		Miss S. Stacey

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The chief occupations of the district are :—

1. Agriculture
2. Catering for Visitors
3. Market Gardening.

The locality may be regarded as purely non-industrial,
and employment is on the whole steady.

1953

ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Medical Officer of Health
for the Barnstaple Rural District

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	..	..	..	..	..	129,346
Population	..	..	..	..	..	23,360
Inhabited Houses	..	..	..	..	..	7,766
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	134,727
Value of a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	£536 5s. 4d.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	143	164	307
Illegitimate	..	8	3	11
				—
				318

Birth Rate per 1,000 Population 13.6

Still Births		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	2	4	6
Illegitimate	..	0	0	0
				—
				6

Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births 18.5

Deaths		Male	Female	Total
		128	129	257

Death Rate per 1,000 Population 11

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

Puerperal Fever	..	..	0
Other Maternal Causes	..	..	0

Below is appended a Table which shows the comparative figures for the Barnstaple Rural District and England and Wales.

Rate per 1,000 Population			Death Rate per 1,000	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births		Deaths under 1 year	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years
Barnstaple Rural Dist.	14.9	.25	8.69	9.4	0
England and Wales	15.5	.35	11.4	26.8	1.1

The local Birth and Death Rates are shown above corrected by the area comparability factor.

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year

			Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	..	..	1	1	2
Illegitimate	..	..	0	1	1
					—
					3

Rate per 1,000 Live Births 9.4

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

			Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	..	..	1	1	2
Illegitimate	..	..	0	0	0
					—
					2
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years	..	..	..	..	0

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1953

					Males	Females
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	..	..			2	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	..	..			3	3
Malignant Neoplasm of Lung and Bronchus					5	2
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	..	..			0	3
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms					10	19
Leukaemia	..	..	..	..	1	4
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System				..	13	23
Coronary Disease—Angina	..	..			23	11
Hypertension with Heart Disease	..	..			1	3
Other Heart Diseases	..	..	..		32	30
Other Circulatory Diseases	..	..	..		4	5
Influenza	..	..	..	..	1	1
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	1	1
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	3	5
Other Diseases of Respiratory System				..	4	0
Duodenal Ulcer	..	..	..	..	2	0
Gastro-Enteritis	..	..	..	..	1	0
Congenital Malformation	..	..	..		1	0
Nephritis	..	..	..	..	2	1
Other Defined and Ill Defined Diseases				..	9	14
Motor Vehicle Accidents	..	..	..		3	1
All Other Accidents	..	..	..	..	5	1
Suicide	..	..	..	..	2	1
					—	—
					128	129

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Tuberculosis

Hawley Sanatorium, situated in the Borough of Barnstaple, has 28 beds.

Maternity Cases

The Devon County Council is continuing to act as they did in 1947, as agents for the Regional Hospital Board, until the Board has completed its own plans for the treatment of Maternity cases.

At the North Devon Infirmary there is a ward of 12 beds with a fully qualified staff available for cases of doubt or difficulty.

At Bicclescombe Maternity Home, Ilfracombe, there are 10 Maternity and 4 Ante-natal beds.

There are 4 beds at Braunton Nursing Home.

A General Practitioner Maternity Unit of 13 beds was opened at Highfield, Victoria Road, Barnstaple, on 1st March, 1952.

Isolation of Infectious Diseases

There is an Infectious Diseases Isolation Hospital at Bideford, which serves Barnstaple as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon. A separate block for early Tuberculosis cases from North Devon is also maintained at this hospital.

Small Pox

The Small Pox Hospital to which any cases of Small Pox will be sent is Upton Pine Hospital, near Exeter. Special Ambulance Transport can be obtained by contacting the Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter. Telephone 67158.

General

The North Devon Infirmary, situated in Barnstaple, serves the Area, and provides modern Medical and Surgical treatment for the residents of the district.

Wards at the Alexandra Hospital are set aside as an annexe to the wards of the North Devon Infirmary, and post-operative and recovery patients are now transferred there as soon as practicable.

There are 123 beds for the chronic sick at the Alexandra Hospital.

At Braunton Nursing Home there are 4 beds for sick persons.

Laboratory Facilities

The Main Laboratory is situated at 7, Dix's Field, Exeter, and Dr. Moore is the Director. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all patients. Bacteriological examinations of drinking water and milk are also carried out.

There is also a Pathological Laboratory at the former Barnstaple and North Devon Dispensary building with a full-time Pathologist and Technical Staff to meet the needs of the whole North Devon Area. The Blood Bank has been transferred to this Laboratory.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

V.D. Clinic

This is held at the North Devon Infirmary Annexe.

Sessions :		Females	Males
Monday	.. ..	4.0 p.m.	5.15 p.m.
Thursday	.. ..	4.30 p.m.	5.45 p.m.

Chest Clinic

The Chest Clinic is held at the North Devon Infirmary.

Sessions :

Tuesdays	9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.	}	Clinic and X-Ray Examinations
Thursdays	9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.		
Fridays	9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.	}	A.P. Refills

Ambulance Service

Under section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. The Brigade serves Barnstaple Borough and the District around, and the Headquarters are in Commercial Road, Barnstaple. The staff consists of 3 paid members (full time), 20 men volunteers, and 14 volunteer nurses. The Hospital car service, also under the

Devon County Council, is available upon application to the Hospital, and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when the Ambulance is not necessary.

Immunization against Diphtheria

During the year 305 children received primary injections ; 477 children received reinforcing injections.

Vaccination

During the year the following vaccinations were carried out :

Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15 years and over
103	68	10	59

Professional Nursing in the Homes

There are 11 District Nurses in the area, all of whom act as Midwives.

Home Helps Scheme

This scheme was started in March 1949 and is run by the W.V.S. for the Devon County Council. It covers Barnstaple Borough and the Rural Areas wherever transport is available, and the scheme is directed by Mrs. Hughes. There are now 46 Home Helps and 288 cases were dealt with in 1953. Any case recommended by a Doctor, Health Visitor or District Nurse is entitled to a Home Help. The Home Helps do any work in the house normally done by the housewife. Twenty-six aged people living by themselves are now being looked after by Home Helps who otherwise would have to go to hospital. During the year 1953 twenty maternity cases have been rendered assistance in their homes by the Home Helps. Six blind people also receive assistance from the Service. I am glad to note that the service is steadily growing and is much appreciated by all concerned.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases

The following Tables give particulars of the Infectious Diseases notified during the year, together with the distribution of cases and the age groups.

<i>Names of Diseases</i>					<i>No. Notified</i>
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	17
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	130
Sonne Dysentery	..	..	..	..	1
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	2
Erysepelas	..	..	..	..	1
Malaria	..	..	..	..	1
Measles	..	..	..	..	480
					—
					642

Tuberculosis—New Cases

During the year 28 fresh cases of Tuberculosis were notified in accordance with the regulations.

<i>Age Periods</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
1 to 5 years	..	0	1	0	0
5 to 10 years	..	0	1	2	0
10 to 15 years	..	0	0	2	0
15 to 25 years	..	2	3	0	0
25 to 35 years	..	2	3	0	0
35 to 45 years	..	4	1	0	0
45 to 55 years	..	1	1	0	0
55 to 65 years	..	1	1	0	0
65 and over	..	1	2	0	0
Age unknown	..	0	0	0	0
		—	—	—	—
Totals	..	11	13	4	0

Tuberculosis—Distribution of Cases

Berrynarbor	..	..	..	..	1
Bishops Tawton	..	..	..	..	1
Braunton	..	..	..	..	11
Combe Martin	..	..	..	..	6
Fremington	..	..	..	..	2
Georgeham	..	..	..	..	2
Heanton Punchardon			..	..	1
Landkey	..	..	..	..	1
Marwood	..	..	..	..	1
Parracombe	..	..	..	..	2

28

Infectious Diseases—Age Periods

	<i>Under</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	<i>Age Un-known</i>	<i>Total</i>
Measles	4	16	29	44	30	64	74	49	46	26	27	16	14	8	4	1	3	2	1	1	21	480	
Whooping Cough	11	7	11	13	14	28	12	13	5	3	3	4		1							5	130	
Pneumonia		1					1	1							1					1	5	10	
Scarlet Fever						4	3	5			1	1							1	1	1	17	
Sonne Dysentery																					1	1	
Erysepelas																					1	1	
Poliomyelitis												1								1		2	
Malaria																					1	1	
Totals	15	24	40	57	44	96	90	68	51	29	31	22	14	9	5	1	3	2	2	—	4	35	642

Distribution of Infectious Diseases Cases Notified during 1952

	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Dysentery	Erysepelas	Polio- myelitis	Malaria	Totals
ARLINGTON	1	5							6
ASHFORD	2	4							6
ATHERINGTON	10	2							12
BERRYNARBOR	26	3	3						32
BISHOPS TAWTON	43	5							48
BITTADON									—
B RATTON FLEMING	1								1
BRAUNTON	3	4	4	2	1		1		15
BRENDON									—
CHALLACOMBE	3								3
COMBE MARTIN	121	10	6						137
COUNTISBURY									—
EAST DOWN	8	1							9
FREMINGTON	41	22		1		1			65
GEORGEHAM									—
GOODLEIGH	8	1		1			1		11
HEANTON PUNCHARDON									—
HIGHBRAY	3	1							4
HORWOOD	1		1						2
INSTOW	22								22
KENTISBURY	1	10							11
LANDKEY	26	19	1	5					51
LOXHORE									—
MARTINHOE									—
MARWOOD	4	6							10
MORTEHOE	103	11	1					1	116
NEWTON TRACEY	5	1							6
PARRACOMBE									—
PILTON WEST									—
SHIRWELL		5							5
STOKE RIVERS	1								1
SWIMBRIDGE	9	19	1						29
TAWSTOCK	32			1					33
TRENTISHOE									—
WEST DOWN	1								1
WESTLEIGH	5	1							6
Total	480	130	17	10	1	1	2	1	642

I desire to thank Mr. Marshall Wright and
Mr. Dennis for their help to me.

Your obedient Servant,

F. J. H. MARTIN.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR, ENGINEER, AND BUILDING SURVEYOR

The Red House,
Castle Street,
Barnstaple.

June, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of
The Barnstaple Rural District Council.

Mrs. Trebble and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my eighth Annual Report of Work
carried out during 1953.

GENERAL

The area of your district is 129,346 acres with an estimated population of 23,360. The population of your District is increasing steadily, the increase for the past year being estimated by the Registrar General as 330.

There has been no appreciable change in the basic industries of the area during the year except that the Power Station at Yelland is now in operation. It awaits to be seen whether or not this source of power will be an encouragement to the establishment of further industries in the District.

In addition to the steady increase in resident population it is apparent that the number of summer visitors is also increasing. Whilst these are necessary for the economic well-being of the area, they bring their problems with them. Numbered amongst these are Traffic and Car Parking problems, Sanitation generally and the need for additional Public Conveniences.

Furthermore, caravanning is increasing in popularity every year and whilst several new sites have been established these are insufficient to meet the demand during the peak periods of July and August.

It is unfortunate that the Season in North Devon cannot be extended. There is ample accommodation both in Hotels, Boarding Houses and Caravan Sites for the total influx of visitors if only the Season could be extended. It is, therefore, necessary in many cases to make provision for the maximum that can be expected during the peak period. This involves considerable expenditure in labour, materials and money, which must of necessity be of little use for the remainder of the year.

The authorised camping and caravan sites have on the whole been well conducted during the year under review and owners have shown their willingness to co-operate, but additional sanitary accommodation will be required on some sites as soon as public sewers are available.

The question of sewerage and sewage disposal in many villages is becoming increasingly serious. Piped water supplies are being provided faster than sewage disposal systems and naturally householders are anxious to instal modern sanitation in the form of baths, wash basins and water closets and the disposal of the consequent increased flow of sewage is a serious problem. Whilst every endeavour is being made to deal with the problem and you are already committed to a total expenditure in the region of half a million pounds, it will be many years before some of the villages have been adequately dealt with unless the rate of progress in the execution of the works can be very considerably increased.

Schemes have been completed as follows :—

Mortehoe (Woolacombe) Provision of pipeline and sea outfall and sewer extensions.

Combe Martin .. Provision of an Ejector Station at Newberry Beach.

Fremington	..	..	Laying of sewers from Bickington to Fremington Pill. Extension of existing outfall to Fremington Pill.
West Down	..	..	Extension of sewer to Barton Lane.
General	..	..	Minor extensions to Housing Sites.

The following schemes are in progress :—

Croyde	The provision of a Sewerage System, Pumping Station and Sea Outfall.
---------------	----	----	--

The following schemes have been approved :—

Taw Sewerage..	South Bank Contract No. 3 at a cost of	£121,956
-----------------------	----	----	--	----------

Schemes approved by the Council :—

					<i>Estimated Cost</i>
Instow Emergency Works	..	..	..	..	£2,998
Sewers at Crosslands, Fremington	..	..	..	..	£7,000
Braunton and Saunton and area	..	..	..	..	£132,500
Bishops Tawton..	..	..	..	..	£30,500

Furthermore schemes are contemplated as follows :—

Completion of the South Bank, Taw Sewerage					
Scheme	..	..	..	..	£100,000
Instow Main Scheme	..	..	..	..	£28,000
Provision of Disposal Works at West Down					£7,117
Prixford	..	..	..	..	£2,000
Landkey and Swimbridge, including Swim- bridge Tannery	..	..	..	..	Unknown
Parracombe	..	..	..	..	Unknown

The peaceful quietude of our countryside is shattered daily by the low-flying modern jet aircraft. One wonders if one can be justly proud of the position we find ourselves in when we gaze over the acres now occupied by the R.A.F. and think of the time when they were food producing. Can we also spare a thought for the fact that the cost of only two or three of these craft if diverted to the purpose of providing modern sanitation would solve our problem in this sphere

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The department is now collecting refuse as follows :—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Period</i>
Ashford	Monthly
Atherington	Monthly
Berrynarbor	Fortnightly
Bishops Tawton (Rumsam, Windy Ash, Eastacombe)	Monthly
Bittadon	Once Every Three Months
Bratton Fleming	Monthly
Braunton (Village)	Weekly
Braunton (Nethercott, Upcott, Lobb, Boode, Winsham)	Monthly
Brendon	Monthly
Combe Martin	Winter—Weekly
Combe Martin	Summer—Twice Weekly
East Down	Every Three Months
Fremington (Village)	Fortnightly
Fremington (Hamlets)	Monthly
Georgeham and Croyde	Fortnightly
Goodleigh	Monthly
Heanton Punchardon	Fortnightly
High Bray	Monthly
Horwood	Monthly
Kentisbury	Monthly
Landkey	Monthly
Landkey (Ackland)	Two-Monthly
Loxhore	Every Three Months
Martinhoe	Monthly
Marwood Hamlets	Monthly
Mortehoe and Woolacombe	Winter—Weekly
Mortehoe and Woolacombe	Summer—Twice Weekly
Newton Tracey	Monthly
Parracombe	Monthly
Stoke Rivers	Every Two Months
Shirwell	Every Two Months
Swimbridge	Monthly

Tawstock (Hele Manor)	..	..	..	Fortnightly
Tawstock (Village and Hamlets)	..	..	..	Monthly
West Down	..	..	..	Monthly

Refuse is also collected during the Summer months from Saunton Sands Hotel, Army Camps, N.A.L.G.O. Holiday Centre at Croyde, and camping sites at Croyde. These collections are in addition to the normal Parish collections, and are charged for as Trade Refuse.

Private Contractors collect the refuse in the under-mentioned Parishes :—

Bishops Tawton	Village	Fortnightly.	Hamlets	Quarterly
Instow..	..	..	..	Twice Weekly
Westleigh	..	..	..	Every Two Months

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

The total number of Inspections, Re-visits and Interviews during the year was 5,001. Made up as follows :—

Visits re Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	16
Water Supplies	..	..	..	20
Number of Drains Inspected and Tested	..	..		359
Sewers	..	..	..	890
Housing Repairs	..	..	..	527
National Assistance Act	..	..	..	6
Housing Act Inspections	..	..	..	30
Inspections and Surveys in connection with the Council's New Housing Programme	..	..		637
Coast Protection	..	..	..	12
Building Licence Inspections, Planning and re-visits under the control of Civil Building Defence Regulations 56A	..	..	..	455
Interviews in connection with the General Council's New Housing Programme	..	..	..	48
Inspection of Food Premises	..	..	..	43
Ice Cream Premises	..	..	..	21
Milk Retailers	..	..	..	13
Public Cleansing	..	..	..	15
Inspections under the Petroleum Acts	..	..		7

Public Health Act Inspections, Nuisances, etc. ..	119
Bakehouses	11
Rodent Control	1372
Factories, Workplaces, Shops	5
Public Conveniences	110
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Camping Sites	84
Schools	5
Visits to Refuse Tips	47
Public Houses	3
Number of Council and Committee Meetings attended	146

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

During the year 1,372 visits and inspections have been made to private dwelling houses, business premises and agricultural properties.

Of this total 597 were found to be infested with rats or mice, and advice was given where necessary.

54 complaints were received from householders, and in 43 of these cases treatment was carried out by the Local Authority.

4 Notices were served requesting disinfestation.

The 16 sewer systems in the area were tested and were found to be practically clear of infestation with one exception, and in this case the necessary treatment was carried out.

Treatments were made at the 6 Refuse Tips, 562 rat bodies being found after the various disinfestations.

Disposal of Carcases deposited on Foreshore.

Animal carcases are still being deposited around the foreshore from time to time. Arrangements have to be made for disposal, usually by burial in lime on the foreshore.

Total Notices (Served as under).

Public Health Act, 1936	4
Housing Acts	4

Swimming Pools

The only Swimming Pool in the district is situated on the seashore and is privately owned. The pool is covered by every tide.

Offensive Trades

Byelaws are in operation for the control of Offensive Trades. There are two in the district :—

1. Tannery at Swimbridge.
2. Gut Scraping Premises at Pilton West.

Underground Sleeping Rooms

There is no need for Regulations in this area in respect of underground sleeping rooms.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Byelaws are in force relating to the above.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Inspections are made of Food Premises throughout the district from time to time and improvements have been called for where necessary. There has been no need for Statutory action during the year.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

During the year 1953 the undermentioned articles of Food were voluntarily surrendered as being unfit for human consumption :—

Lamb	..	..	..	..	..	..	38lb.
Pork	..	..	..	..	..	..	23lb. 11oz.
Luncheon Meat	..	..	..	..	..	..	9lb. 3oz.
Beef	..	..	..	..	..	..	196lb. 4oz.
Ham	..	..	..	..	..	..	14lb. 5oz.
Tongue	..	..	..	..	..	..	25lb. 8oz.
Corned Beef	..	..	..	..	..	..	25lb.
Beef Kidney (Tinned)	..	..	..	..	..	..	17lb. 12oz.
Steak (tin)	..	..	..	..	..	..	5lb. 8oz.
Brawn	..	..	..	..	..	..	2lb. 2oz.

Salmon	..	..	..	..	..	..	1lb.
Cod	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 stone
Cheese	..	..	..	..	..	..	30lb.
Peaches	..	..	..	..	..	..	6lb. 12oz.
Plums	..	..	..	..	..	..	21lb.
Grapes	..	..	..	..	..	..	41lb. 8oz.
Gooseberries	..	..	..	..	..	..	6lb. 12oz.
Fruit Salad	..	..	..	..	..	..	1lb. 15oz.
Cherries	..	..	..	..	..	..	50lb. 13oz.
Apricots	..	..	..	..	..	..	37lb.
Apples	..	..	..	..	..	..	24lb. 2oz.
Grapefruit	..	..	..	..	..	..	2lb.
Pineapple	..	..	..	..	..	..	6lb.
Pears	..	..	..	..	..	..	6lb. 13oz.
Strawberries	..	..	..	..	..	..	13lb.
Blackcurrants	..	..	..	..	..	..	2lb.
Raspberries	..	..	..	..	..	..	1lb.
Prunes	..	..	..	..	..	..	24lb. 7oz.
Sugar	..	..	..	..	..	..	14lb.
Marmalade	..	..	..	..	..	..	5lb.

Ice Cream

Regular inspections of Ice cream premises were carried out. There was no need for Statutory action during the year.

Water

19 Water Samples were taken, 9 of which proved satisfactory. Advice was given in all cases of unsatisfactory results in an endeavour to effect an improvement.

Farm Water Supplies

Several Farm Water Supplies were investigated at the request of the Agricultural Executive Committee during the year.

Coast Protection

Regular inspections are made of the banks and defences generally around your coast. Two cases requiring attention have been notified to the responsible owners and in each case the necessary work has been carried out. Notice of damage to a sea wall by rabbits has also been passed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Rodent Officer.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937—PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

<i>Premises</i> (1)	<i>M/c line</i> <i>No.</i> (2)	<i>Number</i> <i>on</i> <i>Register</i> (3)	<i>Number of</i>			<i>M/c line</i> <i>No.</i> (7)
			<i>Inspections</i> (4)	<i>Written</i> <i>Notes</i> (5)	<i>Occupiers</i> <i>Prosecuted</i> (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	65	5	3	Nil	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3
Total		67	5	3	Nil	

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

<i>Particulars</i> (1)	<i>M/c line</i> <i>No.</i> (2)	<i>Number of cases in which</i> <i>defects were found</i>			<i>Number of</i> <i>cases in</i> <i>which</i> <i>prosecutions</i> <i>were</i> <i>instituted</i> (7)	<i>M/c line</i> <i>No.</i> (8)
		<i>Found</i> (3)	<i>Remedied</i> (4)	<i>To H.M. By H.M.</i> <i>Inspector Inspector</i> (5) (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	3	3			4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5					5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6					6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7					7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8					8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	9					9
(a) Insufficient	10	1	1		1	10
(b) Unsuitable or defective	11					11
(c) Not separate for sexes						
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12					12
Total	60	4	4	Nil	1	60

BUILDING SURVEYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Red House,
Castle Street,
Barnstaple.

June, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of
The Barnstaple Rural District Council.

Mrs. Trebble and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the following Report on the activities of
the Building Surveyor's Department during the year 1953.

As will be seen from the Summary of Inspections in the
Sanitary Inspector's Report, 637 interviews were given in
connection with your Housing Programme.

BUILDING LICENCES 1953

Housing Repairs

No. of Licences granted	..	..	..	1
Total Cost	..	..	..	£1,525

Re-instatement

No. of Licences granted	..	..	..	2
Total cost	..	..	..	£850

Conversions, Adaptations and Additions

No. of Licences granted	..	..	..	6
No. of additional family units provided	..	..	..	7
Total cost	..	..	..	£6,697

New Dwellings

No. of Licences granted	..	..	..	96
Total cost	..	..	..	£188,630 16s.

POST-WAR HOUSING PROGRAMME

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Houses completed up to Dec. 31st, 1953</i>	<i>Houses under con- tion at Dec. 1953 but not completed</i>
Atherington ..	4	—
Berrynarbor ..	8	—
Bishop's Tawton	12	—
Bratton Fleming	8	—
Braunton ..	102	—
Challacombe ..	2	2
Combe Martin ..	37	—
Fremington ..	80*	16
Georgeham ..	8	—
Heanton Punchardon	16	—
Highbray ..	4	4
Instow	10	4
Kentisbury ..	6*	—
Landkey	14	6
Martinhoe ..	4	—
Marwood ..	4	—
Mortehoe ..	18	—
Newton Tracey ..	8	—
Parracombe ..	8	—
Shirwell	8*	—
Swimbridge ..	12	—
West Down ..	8	—
Westleigh ..	8	—
	—	—
	387	24

*These totals do NOT include the following which were commenced in 1945 before the end of the war :—

Agricultural cottages, Fremington ..	2
Blackmore Gate, Kentisbury	2
Agricultural cottages, Shirwell	2

HOUSING APPLICATIONS

The following Table gives the number of applicants on each Parish Housing List as at 31st December, 1953.

As a number of applicants are recorded on more than one Parish List, it is difficult to assess the true position. I would consider that approximately 75 per cent. of the total actually are in need of accommodation.

The position is made more difficult by the fact that a number of applicants, in addition to registering in more than one parish also register with several Local Authorities.

<i>Parish</i>						<i>No. of Applicants</i>
Arlington	..	..	..	..	..	—
Ashford ..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Atherington	..	..	..	..	..	2
Berrynarbor	..	..	..	..	..	7
Bishop's Tawton	..	..	..	..	..	23
Bittadon ..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Bratton Fleming	.	..	..	..	..	11
Braunton	..	..	..	..	..	127
Brendon ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Challacombe	..	..	..	..	..	3
Combe Martin	..	..	..	..	..	16
Countisbury	..	..	..	..	..	1
East Down	..	..	..	..	..	—
Fremington	..	..	..	..	..	92
Georgeham	..	..	..	..	..	6
Goodleigh	..	..	..	..	..	5
Heanton Punchardon	..	..	..	..	..	3
High Bray	..	..	..	..	..	6
Horwood	..	..	..	..	..	—
Instow ..	..	..	..	..	..	39
Kentisbury	..	..	..	..	..	1
Landkey	..	..	..	..	..	43
Loxhore ..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Martinhoe	..	..	..	..	..	—
Marwood	..	..	..	..	..	3
Mortehoe	..	..	..	..	..	10
Newton Tracey	..	..	..	..	..	10
Parracombe	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pilton West	..	..	..	..	..	—
Shirwell ..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Stoke Rivers	..	..	..	..	..	—
Swimbridge	..	..	..	..	..	10
Tawstock	..	..	..	..	..	1
West Down	..	..	..	..	..	10
Westleigh	..	..	..	..	..	1

PLANS

321 applications out of a total of approximately 680 submitted by the Local Authorities in the North Devon Divisional Planning area of the Devon County Council were in respect of schemes in your area.

Details of Plans Submitted

No. approved under Bye-laws	..	..	242
No. disapproved under Byelaws	..	..	7
No. approved under Town Planning	..	..	281
No. disapproved under Town Planning	..	..	8
No decision given under Town Planning	..	..	12
No. withdrawn after formal submission	..	..	8

I wish to record my thanks to each member of the Council, the Clerk, Medical Officer, and to all members of the Department for their support and consideration during the past year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR J. DENNIS.

